

Note from the Editor

Here we are again! Second year, second issue. Everybody was right in telling us that we would have a hard time getting the first issue of FOCUS published last year. What we didn't expect was that it would be as harder to keep it running in 2005, in the midst of the busy Cal Poly academic schedule! Yet again, the active group of students who helped with this issue and the supportive environment at both the department and the college were fundamental to get FOCUS out and in a good shape. So, if you are a prospective student keep this in mind: CRP has a great environment with a lot of synergy where you will feel comfortable and part of a greater whole, and encouraged to reach out for the best of you always. Except for minor changes in the graphics, FOCUS 2 basically follows the same format from last year. The works that feature in this issue are of a scope and depth that are good indicative s of why CRP is considered California's premier professional planning program.

The Special Events section starts with an article by CRP students on the first Dean's Invitational Symposium, an important college event for the discussion of experiences in infill housing developments in California. The article that follows is a transcription of a presentation at CRP by planning expert and best-selling author William Fulton. Discussing the possibilities of regional planning in California, Fulton pointed out the various available mechanisms, the politics, and the difficulties of changing prevalent visions about development control. Next, guest speaker Bishwa Pandey, from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, synthesized his presentation on setting a GIS model for disaster prevention planning in Caracas, Venezuela.

The different contributions in the Essays section show the range of research interests in CRP. Department Head Bill Siembieda and MCRP student Jerry Sturmer collaborate in discussing contemporary practice in master-planned communities, pointing out that success is generally linked to the ability to adapt implementation strategies. Paul Wack writes about model community Village Homes in Davis, California, an early example of sustainable design and a laboratory for planning education. D.Gregg Doyle discusses the difficulties for the production of affordable housing in San Luis Obispo, despite recent changes in state and local policies. Sense of community and travel behavior in new urbanist settings are the themes of an article by Krasnove, Javid, del Rio & Levi, who discuss a recent research in the San Luis Obispo County. In the last essay, visiting professor Roberto Rodriguez writes a historical account on the influence of the Law of the Indies on the morphology of the city of Barcelona, Venezuela.

The International Exchanges section brings the personal accounts of CRP students who spent a quarter in New Zealand and in Australia, where exuberant natural settings and interesting cities show a mix of European and US planning models. Next, Carlos Leite, a visiting professor from the Mackenzie University in Brazil, with my help and that of undergrad student Karlo Felix, comments on a CRP course he taught in the fall of 2004, where students worked on a sustainable redevelopment project for an inner-city brownfield in São Paulo.

The section on Student Work is loaded with top quality writings and projects. In two different essays, CRP graduate students Ann Whyte and Elizabeth FitzZaland discuss urban design concepts and methods. Corinne Rosenblum, another graduate, describes her participation in a series of GIS community visioning workshops for the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments. Faculty member D.Gregg Doyle describes CRP's involvement in the Bank of America's Low-Income Housing Challenge. Undergraduate work is represented by a second year urban design project for the revitalization of the southern area of downtown Paso Robles, and an article by Christopher Jordan on the Community Plan for San Miguel, developed by the fourth year community planning lab, which has received state and national awards. Finally, two senior projects are discussed by their authors Sierra Russell and Noah Christman: a project for incrementing tourism in the port of Rio de Janeiro, and the redesign of Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

In Spotlight, FOCUS presents the abstracts of theses and projects defended in the past year at CRP's Master of City and Regional Planning program, as well as interviews with some of our alumni. They comment on the reflections and effectiveness of their CRP education in their professional lives, and on their thoughts on what the younger generation of planners should need in the very near future.

Lastly, I would like to thank all my colleagues and readers who voiced their opinions and helped us to improve our editorial project. I am also grateful to our donors, past and present, who believe in the pedagogical value and informational power of FOCUS. I hope you will enjoy this issue.

Vicente del Rio

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